

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
FOR  
FACILITY UPGRADES AND DREDGING  
IN SUPPORT OF FAST RESPONSE CUTTER BASING  
SECTOR SAN JUAN, SAN JUAN, PR

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Facilities Design and Construction Center (FD&CC) announces the availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for proposed facility upgrades and dredging in support of fast response cutter (FRC) home-porting aboard Sector San Juan, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The proposed action will provide adequate infrastructure and support facilities to home-port up to six 154' Sentinel Class FRCs as replacements for the current fleet of 110' Island Class patrol boats. With an aging legacy 110' patrol boat fleet, the USCG has a critical need for additional patrol boats to close an operational hour gap that hinders the USCG's ability to most successfully and efficiently complete all potential missions. Planned as the smallest of three major classes of cutters, the FRC will be able to deploy independently to conduct a variety of missions including ports, waterways, and coastal security; fishery patrols; drug and immigration law enforcement, search and rescue; and national defense operations. This new patrol boat is one of the USCG's top priorities, and Sector San Juan is scheduled to home-port six FRCs as replacements for the agency 110' patrol boats currently assigned there.

The EA documents the potential environmental effects associated with reconfiguring or redeveloping the Sector San Juan waterfront and shore facilities in a way that is optimized to accommodate the FRC, to include harbor dredging if required, as well as the cumulative effects of basing the FRC in Puerto Rico.

The EA was prepared in accordance with Commandant Instruction M16475.1D and is in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and the Council of Environmental Quality Regulations dated 28 November 1978 (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The EA serves as a concise public document to briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining the need to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact. The EA concisely describes the proposed action, the need for the proposal, the alternatives, and the environmental impacts of the proposal and alternatives. This Environmental Assessment also contains a comparative analysis of the action and alternatives, a statement of the environmental significance of the preferred alternative, and a list of the agencies and persons consulted during its preparation.

Based upon the results of the EA, the USCG concluded that the proposed action will have no significant impact on the human environment and issued the accompanying FONSI.

The EA and FONSI can be reviewed online at the FD&CC's web site: <http://www.uscg.mil/fdcc/>

Those wishing to receive a printed copy may contact LCDR Jason Kremer, Director of Planning, at the address below:

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